

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 003300-634

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Timo LAAKSO *et al.*

Application No.: ~~09/424,741~~ 09/529,442

Filed: April 13, 2000

For: ENCAPSULATION METHOD

Group Art Unit: 1616

Examiner: R. DeWitty

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HKO
5-22-02

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is timely filed in complete response to the Official Action mailed on July 23, 2001 (Paper No. 4) and due on October 23, 2001.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 as follows:

B' Sub
2'
1. (Once Amended) A method of encapsulating an active substance in a biodegradable polymer, which comprises:

a) dissolving said biodegradable polymer in an organic solvent therefor;

05/23/2002 HDENDY 00000005 024800 dispersing said active substance in the organic solution obtained in step a), to provide a dispersion with the active substance as the inner phase thereof; and
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c) subjecting the dispersion obtained in step (b), to an encapsulation operation with an aqueous polyethylene glycol solution as a continuous phase, such that micro- or nanoparticles having the active substance encapsulated therein are obtained.